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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/578,038  
Applicant : Tomoyoshi YABE  
Filed : May 25, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 2623  
Examiner : Virginia M. Kibler

Confirmation No. 6470

Docket No. : HIAS.95176  
Customer No. : 30902

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JAN 28 2004  
Technology Center 2600

Dear Sir:

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended by Examiner Kibler in granting the interview with applicant's representative on December 15, 2003.


During the interview, the participants discussed the prior art references including Japanese Patent No. 08-075666 to Uchida and Japanese Patent No. 09-160982 to Suzuki. The participants further discussed an Amendment after final rejection submitted on December 10, 2003, and the distinctions between the amended claims and the Uchida and Suzuki references. Applicant's representative noted that Suzuki fails to disclose an identifying means that identifies a work board based on times of entry and exit of the work board into and out of a process. Applicant's representative further noted that Uchida fails to disclose multiple features of amended claim 1, including at least a velocity measuring means for measuring rotational velocity of a transferring roller, a detecting means for detecting entry and exit of the work board, a time measuring means, and an identifying means for identifying the work board based on entry and exit times.

The submitted Amendment cancelled claims 2 and 5 and incorporated the subject matter of these claims into claim 1. The Amendment additionally cancelled claims 6, 8, and 10 such that claim 1 is the only remaining independent claim. Examiner Kibler said that she believed that the Amendment to claim 1 would likely require further search or consideration.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that are required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2112 referencing Attorney Docket No. HIAS.95176.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 26, 2004

  
Kerry H. Owens  
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